



Term	Definition
Biomass	biological material derived from living, or recently living organisms
Fossil fuel	buried organic material from decayed plants and animals that have been converted to oil, coal, and gas over hundreds of millions of years
Geothermal energy	heat drawn from inner layers of the Earth
Human feature	created by humans, e.g. roads, houses and canals
Hydro-electricity	electricity that is created by the flow of water
Mineral	a solid substance with no origin as a previous life form
Non-renewable energy	energy from a source that can be used up and no longer be available
Physical feature	naturally occurring feature, e.g. rivers and mountains
Recycled	'discarded' or 'end-of-life items' converted into a reusable item or material
Renewable energy	energy source that will never be used
Solar energy	sunlight into electricity
Sustainability	ability to maintain balance between natural ecological systems through not harming the environment or using up resources that will run out
Tidal energy	a form of hydropower that converts the energy of tides into useful forms of power
Wave energy	the capture of energy from ocean surface waves for electricity generation
Wind power	energy extracted from wind using wind turbines to produce electrical power
Climatic extremes	the confluence of high impact weather and climate variability.
Non-renewable energy	energy from a source that can be used up and no longer be available
Global Warming	a gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere generally attributed to the greenhouse effect caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, CFCs, and other pollutants.
Biomes	a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.
Vegetation belts	area with distinct plant types, determined by climate, soil, drainage, and elevation. There are five major vegetation regions: forest, grassland, tundra, desert, and ice sheet
Deforestation	when forests are destroyed by cutting and not replanted. Sometimes deforestation happens when people change the land into farms, ranches and cities. Without the forest, the habitats of the animals are lost and many animals die. It also results in global warming
Ocean Currents	a continuous, directed movement of sea water generated by a number of forces acting upon the water, including wind, the Coriolis effect, breaking waves, cabbeling, and temperature and salinity differences.

Rainforests: Rainforests are a kind of forest habitat. They are found in warm places, and are full of many tall trees and leafy plants. It's called 'rainforest' because it also gets a lot of rain every year, helping all the plants grow.

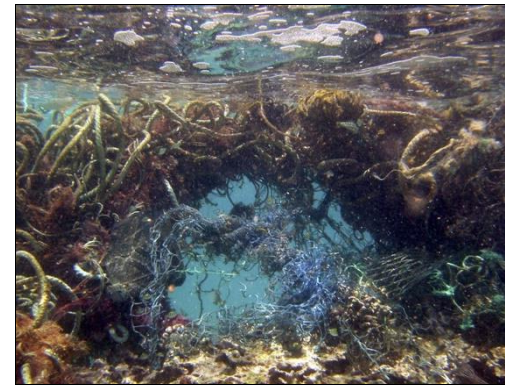


Because rainforests are warm, wet and dense, they are full of life – millions of different kinds of plants and animals live there, and some haven't even been discovered yet! It's important to protect rainforest habitats for all the creatures, who live there, and for humans too; rainforests produce 20% of the oxygen that all of us in the world need to breathe.



RELATED INFORMATION:

MAP OF THE OCEANS



The Great Pacific Garbage patch: this is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean. Marine debris is rubbish that ends up in the oceans and seas. It is 1.6 million square km. The patch is caused by the North Pacific Gyre (a system of circulating currents in an ocean).

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO FIND OUT MORE:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zyx6wxs

www.easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-caring-for-our-world

Key Questions:

What are the main environmental threats to our planet?

What is a biome?

Can minerals be used sustainably?

What types of energy are available?

Why do we need to protect our Oceans?

Why do we need to protect our Rainforests?

What is the difference between renewable and fossil fuels?

Why is it important to prevent the polar ice caps melting?

Deeper Thinking - Using evidence and data to support your answer. What is the most crucial area to resolve first?

How can we develop a way to combat all of the dangers our planet is facing?